

I claim:

1. A method for managing printers in a network environment, comprising:

defining all groups that a new user belongs to, as well as a user name, client name, and station name when said new user logs onto a client station in the network;

5        querying a printer database to establish all printers that the designated groups, user, client and station have been assigned;

      executing a configuration routine for each assigned printer identified in said query step, said routine comprising the following steps,

10        checking whether a printer driver is installed for each authorized printer and, if not, installing the printer driver,

      automatically configuring each assigned printer identified in said surveying step,

      whereby said recursive configuration routine is executed for each assigned printer identified in said surveying step until all such assigned printers are fully configured.

15        2. The method for managing printers in a network environment according to claim 1, wherein said step of executing a configuration routine for each assigned printer identified in said query step further comprises executing a routine to configure local printers connected to the user's computer, whereby all required driver software is automatically installed and the permissions of the local printer are set so that only authorized users can access the local printer.

3. The method for managing printers in a network environment according to claim 2,  
wherein said step of executing a configuration routine for each assigned printer identified in said  
query step further comprises executing a routine to configure network printers connected to the  
user's network, whereby all required driver software is automatically installed and the permissions  
5 of the network printers are set so that only authorized users can access the network printers.

4. The method for managing printers in a network environment according to claim 1,  
wherein said step of executing a configuration routine for each assigned printer identified in said  
query step further comprises automatically setting a default printer for the user.

5. The method for managing printers in a network environment according to claim 1,  
further comprising a step of cleaning up all created printers and printer connections when a user  
logs off, thereby preventing accumulation of unwanted and unneeded printers and printer  
connections.